

packaging members while pressing the end packaging members against respective opposite ends of said rolled article.” The Examiner asserts that Kadota teaches that

skirt members 24 are attached to the packaging sheet 26 as the sheet is wound onto the rolled article 14 and while the sheet/skirt is wound around the opposing end members 18. Figures 43-47 show the pressing of the end of the roll with mechanism 486 [sic, 686, 696, 700¹] while the packaging sheet with the skirts is wound around the rolled article.

(Office Action at p. 2-3). Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner’s position is in error.

U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0148922 A1 (“Kadota ‘922”) claims priority to Kadota and has a corresponding disclosure.² It is the Examiner’s position that Kadota ‘922’s hot air blowers 1496a, 1496b application of hot air to skirt member 24 (*see* p. 22 at para. [0359]; FIG. 91³) corresponds to the “mounting said skirt members” operation recited in claim 1. (Office Action at pp. 2-3). It is the Examiner’s further assertion that the “while pressing the end packaging members against respective opposite ends of said rolled article” recitation in claim 1 is taught by Kadota ‘922’s supposed “pressing” by slide units 1486a, 1486b (*see* p. 22 at para. [0359]; FIG. 91). (Office Action at pp. 2-3). Regarding the application of hot-air to the skirt members, Kadota ‘922 states:

When the light-shielding leader 22 is wound around the photosensitive roll 12 as described above, the hot air blowers 1496a, 1496b mounted on the first and second slide

¹ As no reference numeral 486 is shown in Kadota, on April 19, 2005 Applicant’s representative, Mr. Brandon White, telephoned Examiner Sipos to ask for clarification on the grounds of rejection. On April 28, 2005, Examiner Sipos returned Mr. White’s calls and confirmed that no reference numeral 486 is shown in Kadota. Examiner Sipos stated that he intended to cite to reference numbers 686, 696 and 700 instead of reference numeral 486.

² Accordingly, Applicant cites herein to Kadota ‘922 as it is in the English language.

³ Kadota’s ‘922’s FIG. 91 corresponds to Kadota’s FIG. 47.

units 1486a, 1486b are positioned in confronting relation to the opposite ends of the photosensitive roll 12 by the cylinders 1498a, 1498b. The hot air blowers 1496a, 1496b then apply hot air to the photosensitive roll 12, thermally shrinking the light-shielding shrink films 24 of the light-shielding leader 22 over the outer circumferential edges of the first flanged members 18a.

(p. 22 at para. [0359]; *see FIG. 91*).

Paragraph [359] lacks any teaching of pressing skirt members 24 or any other portion of rolled member 12 against ends of the rolled article while skirt members 24 are being mounted. Indeed, FIG. 91 makes clear that slide units 1486a, 1486b do not press against rolled article 12 while hot air is blow against skirt members 24 for purposes of shrink wrapping rolled article 12. While FIG. 91 appears to show slide units 1486a, 1486b touching skirt members 24, there is no indication that slide units 1486a, 1486b continue to move inward to remain in contact during the shrink wrapping process. Indeed, such continued pressure on the skirt members would cause the shrink wrapped ends to be wrinkled and non-uniform. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not understand FIG. 91 to teach or suggest “mounting said skirt members on said end packaging members while pressing the end packaging members against respective opposite ends of said rolled article” as the Examiner asserts. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Kadota '922, and, similarly, Kadota JP, fails to teach or suggest each element of claim 1. Applicant further submits that, for similar reasons, Kadota JP fails to teach or suggest each element of independent claim 4. As claims 2-3 and 5-11 each depend on one of claims 1 and 4, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least based on their dependency.

Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appl'n No. 10/781,292

Docket No. Q79518

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Brandon M. White
Registration No. 52,354

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 5, 2005